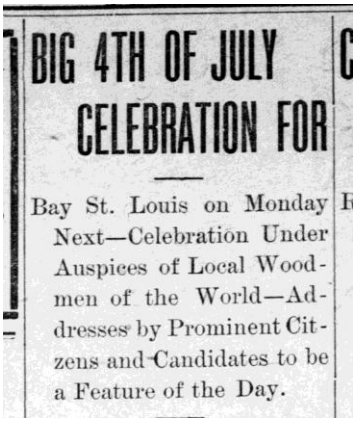
Retro #10: Independence Day 1910

Articles in *The Sea Coast Echo* in 1910 and the following few years describe in great detail how Bay St. Louis celebrated the Fourth of July, thanks to the efforts of the Cedar Grove Camp 507 of the Woodmen of the World and the cooperation of the administrators at St. Stanislaus College. During that time, St. Stanislaus College hosted the Woodmen of the World's annual Independence Day celebration, making available its playing fields for baseball and other games as well as its large campus for refreshments and all-day picnics. Festivities usually started with a parade through town at 10 a.m., then games and picnics, patriotic and political speeches, and in the evening an elaborate grand ball.

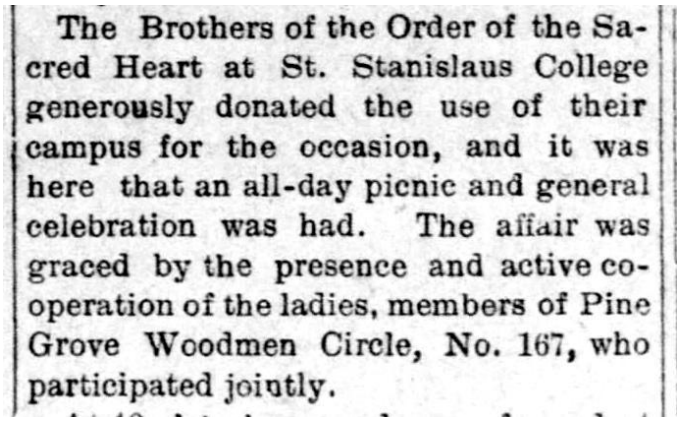
In 1910 city council members led the fifth annual parade, riding in automobiles, followed by a large number of horse-drawn carriages with well-dressed members of the Ladies Circle of the W.O.W. Next came other public officials with the invited speakers for the day in autos. Then in horse and buggies were the members of the press, other public officials and friends, followed by marching members of various camps of the Woodmen of the World. The parade wended its way through the principal streets in town, passing by St. Stanislaus College on Front Street. As the parade passed by the school, George Mallard, photographer, took several outstanding photos such as the one shown here with the horse-drawn carriages.

As the clip from the July 7, 1910, *Echo* illustrates, the Woodmen and the local newspaper always expressed gratitude to SSC for donating the use of its campus.



BIG 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION FOR

Bay St. Louis on Monday Next—Celebration Under Auspices of Local Woodmen of the World—Addresses by Prominent Citizens and Candidates to be a Feature of the Day.



The Brothers of the Order of the Sacred Heart at St. Stanislaus College generously donated the use of their campus for the occasion, and it was here that an all-day picnic and general celebration was had. The affair was graced by the presence and active cooperation of the ladies, members of Pine Grove Woodmen Circle, No. 167, who participated jointly.

Photo by George Mallard, July 4, 1912. Woodmen of the World Parade in front of St. Stanislaus College

Brother Xavier Werneth, April 2025